



## **Legislative Report**

September 22, 2008

### **Bovine Tuberculosis Program Update**

Provided by the Animal Industry Division  
Michigan Department of Agriculture

#### **USDA proposes indemnity rule change**

On July 24, 2008, the USDA APHIS Veterinary services proposed a rule on indemnity for bovine TB positive animals. The proposal includes:

- An approved herd plan in must be in place prior to payment of indemnity
- USDA will withhold 10 percent of the gross indemnity payment until the conditions of an approved herd plan have been implemented
- Deny federal indemnity payments if the owner failed to follow the provisions of the plan

Herd plans for premises located in areas with bovine TB infected wildlife include wildlife risk reduction measures. The USDA believes these proposed changes "would further tuberculosis eradication efforts in the United States and protect livestock not affected with tuberculosis from the disease."

#### **Modified Accredited Zone Supervisor Leaves Program after 10 Years of Service**

Dr. Dan Graham returned to private veterinary practice this month after leading MDA's TB eradication program efforts in the MAZ for over 9 years. Dr. Graham was instrumental in maintaining effective relationships between field staff and livestock producers. Efforts to refill the position have not been successful to date. Staff are evaluating alternative strategies to attract and retain qualified candidates for this and other positions.

#### **Revised Cooperative Agreement Submitted to USDA for Emergency Funding**

In late August, the USDA VS informed MDA that they would not approve use of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) emergency funding to create incentives to prevent new herd infections through a cost-share program for wildlife risk reduction practices. Staff reworked spending plans for both 2008 and 2009 fiscal years. Under

the revised plans, CCC emergency funds will not be passed through to external agencies as the Department originally intended.

### **Proposal to Modify Movement Testing Requirements in Part of the Modified Accredited Zone**

In August, the Department received a letter from livestock producers of the north western Lower Peninsula outlining a strategy to reduce animal movement testing requirements in the western counties of the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ). The proposal would affect producers located in Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, and Otsego counties. They requested the western MAZ counties have the same movement testing requirements as the counties in the Modified Accredited Advance Zone (MAAZ). Under the proposal, herds located in these counties would still be required to have an annual whole herd test as part of a risk-based surveillance program. The proposal is based on the following facts:

1. The apparent prevalence of bovine TB in wild white-tailed deer is dramatically lower in the western MAZ compared to the 5 county area that includes Presque Isle, Montmorency, Alpena, Oscoda, and Alcona counties
2. Bovine TB infected livestock have not been identified in western MAZ since May 2006

Michigan's current split state status is granted by USDA VS. The requirements for maintenance of that status are negotiated and identified in the MOU between the State of Michigan and that agency and include the movement testing requirements contained in the US Code of Federal Regulations. MDA forwarded the proposal to USDA. The proposal will be discussed with the USDA review team when they are in Michigan and will be considered during negotiations for the next MOU.

### **Bovine TB Surveillance Testing**

#### **Iosco Circle Testing Completed**

Testing of all herds in the two Iosco circles established around two bovine TB positive free-ranging deer is finished. Enforcement efforts were required to get the last three herds tested. Repeated contacts with producers and law enforcement officials document that owners were given ample opportunities to comply. These additional actions cost the Department over \$4,000 in the case of one of these farms.

#### **Shiawassee Circle Testing**

MDA and USDA tested and cleared 167 herds in the ten mile radius around the one Shiawassee County bovine TB positive free-ranging deer. One producer refuses to test and the case has been turned over to the compliance officer. When this final herd is tested, the Potential High Risk Area designations from both Iosco and Shiawassee counties will be lifted.

### Bovine TB Testing:

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Annual Surveillance Requirement</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ)	1,000 annual herd tests on individual farm anniversary dates	Herds are currently up-to-date on testing.
Modified Accredited Advanced Zone (MAAZ) and Free Zone	Minimum of 500 higher risk herds	Update – 410 herds have been tested for surveillance purposes.

\*Updated based on the most current information reported as of September 8, 2008.

### **Zonal Boundary Compliance**

A total of 301 livestock vehicles were processed through the Agriculture Inspection Station north of the Mackinac Bridge in St. Ignace during the month of August. MDA staff determined that 69 livestock transportation vehicles (25 percent of total inspected) contained cattle and found one possible cattle movement violation. A total of 28 of the livestock vehicles drove past MDA staff without stopping. Five of these were intercepted by law enforcement officials. All were found to be empty. A reminder to stop at the Mackinac Bridge went to Michigan horse people via equine industry email lists.

During the month of August, MSP Traffic Safety Officers stopped two vehicles while conducting surveillance of MAZ and MAAZ borders.

### **Compliance Cases:**

Thirty-six cases were turned over to compliance during the month of August. Of these cases, three are pending administrative review for possible hearings, two received warning letters, six were unfounded, and 25 investigations are pending. MDA's Animal Industry Division has two compliance officers working on Pseudorabies, Brucellosis, pet shops, bovine TB, and CWD for the entire state.

There were 312 cattle movement permits issued from MAZ premises in August, 2008. Signs indicating the requirements for movement between zones are posted between zones on the State's secondary highways.

### **Market Surveillance**

There were 105 movement permits issued for cattle leaving the MAZ livestock market in August.

### **Slaughter Surveillance and Slaughter Verification**

There were 15,577 head of Michigan cattle scanned at USDA Food Safety Inspection Service slaughter plants in July.

## **Discovery of CWD in privately owned cervid impacts bovine TB Program**

Disease control measures implemented by the Michigan departments of Agriculture (MDA) and Natural Resources (DNR) to respond to CWD in Michigan impacting bovine TB eradication efforts include:

- Increased disease surveillance efforts in privately owned cervidae facilities
- A ban on supplemental feeding and baiting of wild deer and elk across the lower peninsula for the next six months.

## **Bovine TB Communications:**

Animal Industry Division embarked on a communications campaign for this fall.

- Michigan Out-of-Doors will carry an advertisement regarding the baiting ban
- Michigan Cattlemen Magazine will carry an ad regarding wildlife risk mitigation strategies.
- Dr. Halstead will appear in television commercials in the MAZ asking both producers and hunters to do their part to prevent bovine TB.
- Zonal boundary signs are posted on secondary highways along the MAZ border
- A billboard on 127 North also reminds producers of zonal requirements
- The hunting license outlets, gas stations and grain elevators in the MAZ will carry the "Help Prevent Bovine TB" posters

## **Bovine TB issues in the media:**

Minnesota: <http://webstar.postbulletin.com/agrinews/292316357264844.bsp>

Animal Identification: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=245465>

Early hunt in bovine TB zone:

[http://blog.mlive.com/bctimes/2008/08/state\\_approves\\_special\\_deer\\_hu.html](http://blog.mlive.com/bctimes/2008/08/state_approves_special_deer_hu.html)

Deer baiting and feeding ban: <http://www.cheboygannews.com/articles/2008/09/03/news/news1.txt>

Is TB a re-emerging disease? <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=252346>

Horse haulers asked to stop at Mackinac Bridge: <http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=12652>